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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

111922

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Operation of the Askania Firm

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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Askania-Werke, Kaiserallee, Berlin

1. The main plant of the Askania-Werke, Berlin-Friedenau, belongs to the Conti Konzern, Dessau. The technical director is Guido Wunsch; sales director is Count Guido (Rudolf?) Westarp. The main factory is located in Berlin-Friedenau, with a finishing plant in Mariendorf. The attached survey sheet shows the present production program. Some items can be supplied from the storehouses; on others a delivery period of a few months is necessary.
2. The items listed under 1 and 3 of the production program are prepared in separate sections and after completion are sent through central workshops and sold through a central sales office (directed by Asheuer for articles under 1 and Kurtz for articles under 3).
3. The only factory owned by Askania in the Russian zone is the factory in Teltow, the firm of Askania-Werke, Feinmechanik und Optik, Teltow. At the present time Askania-Berlin employs about 700 persons, Askania-Teltow about 300. The Teltow factory is directed by Dr. Rudolf Müller, who formerly was in charge of the branch plant of the Askania-Werke, Eta, in Prague. The Teltow factory (technical director Engineer Heinrich Knoch, factory director Rudolf Müller) officially has orders amounting to 5,000,000 RM. The chief customer of the Teltow plant is the Ministry for the Iron Industry, which has three officials in the Teltow plant at the present time. These are Engineer Svenigorodsky, Engineer Makarev, and Engineer Major Dimitriev, all of whom are from the Ministry for the Iron Industry in Moscow. Negotiations with these persons are conducted exclusively through the technical supply section by Engineer Knoch.
4. The orders are for measuring apparatus and steering devices such as are needed in foundries (mines). The capacity of the Teltow plant is completely exhausted by these orders. In addition to them, however, a number of unofficial orders have been received through the Teltow factory. These

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similar equipment, which Russian officers buy from Askania; some cases old apparatus is delivered which can be overhauled and reworked into new. Teltow does not do this work itself, but distributes the instruments in individual parts to various workshops in Berlin belonging to Askania, and only does the accounting. This explains the difference between the official and the unofficial production figures. The Russian officers pay cash, naming no office or address. For this reason, in the last year unofficial sales were RM 750,000, official RM 250,000 in the Friedenau plant.

5. At the present time Askania holds shares in or is interested in the following plants:

- a. Askania, Feinmechanik und Optik, G.m.b.H., Teltow, Oderstrasse 1
- b. Askania-Werke, G.m.b.H., Munich 25, Boschitzriederstrasse 59
- c. Askania-Werke A.G., Bodenseewerk, Überlingen/Bodensee, Nussdorferstrasse 50
- d. Nautische Werkstätten G.m.b.H., Kiel, Lüttjenburg/East Holstein, am Markt 22

Kinotheodolites

6. Before the war the "Kinotheodolite" or "Ballontheodolite" were constructed in the Askania-Werke mainly for use in observatories and research institutions. Further development of the apparatus led to theodolite stations, which found their greatest use with the Luftwaffe and were largely employed in the anti-aircraft artillery for automatic sighting and aiming. In addition to domestic deliveries, these instruments were also shipped to Japan. The apparatus was constructed at the Askania-Werke in Berlin-Friedenau, Kaiserallee, at the Askania-Werke in Berlin-Mariendorf, and at the Eta - G.m.b.H. in Prague, a branch corporation of the Askania-Werke.
7. After the Russians had cleared out the Askania-Werke, large stores of spare parts remained. In addition, a large number of these instruments still fit for use, some destroyed and some not assembled, remained on airfields in the Russian zone. When the factory resumed operations at the end of 1945, officials of the Russian air force appeared and negotiated for the purchase of the theodolite installations. The Russian buyers gave no name and no address and conducted their business on a cash basis. They arranged that the stations from the Russian airfields and individual parts should reach the Askania-Werke for completion. Until the present, 25-30 such stations, consisting of three theodolites each, with complete equipment and accessory parts, have been delivered. Forty more stations have been ordered and are to be ready for delivery within the course of a year.
8. Operations are conducted on the following basis: The Russian offices negotiate in Friedenau with the director in charge of the instrument, Lüttke. With an eye to existing regulations, single parts or damaged instruments are delivered to the Askania-Werk, Feinmechanik und Optik G.m.b.H. Teltow, Oderstrasse 1. Then the instruments are taken to the Askania-Werke, Berlin-Mariendorf, or the Askania-Werke, Berlin-Friedenau.

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9. In the workshops the apparatus is repaired, necessary optical parts being replaced from the factory grindery, reworked, readjusted, and assembled. The apparatus is again taken, in finished form, to the Teltow factory, where it is demonstrated to the Russians by the Friedenau personnel, turned over, and paid for in cash. The money received is credited to the Friedenau plant. For its part in the transactions, Teltow receives a commission of 2% of the sum paid. The sales price of a theodolite station consisting of three units amounts to 250,000 RM.
10. The following persons are in charge of these arrangements:

Technical part : - Herr Lüdtko, Berlin-Friedenau
Accounts and sales : - Herr Bars, Berlin-Friedenau
Technical finishing: - Herr Ebeling, Berlin-Friedenau or
Berlin-Mariendorf

"Meopta" - Prague

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11. [REDACTED] a leading director of "Meopta", a Czechoslovakian state concern consolidating all precision instrument and optical factories, was in Berlin negotiating with the Askania-Werke. Three Prague factories, which were formerly branch corporations of the Askania-Werke and are very well supplied with machinery, belong to "Meopta". For about half a year negotiations have been underway between this concern and Askania concerning exchange of construction data. Askania delivers construction plans and technical project data for the construction of automatic regulators for the power plants and foundries there to "Meopta".
12. In exchange for these data Czechoslovakia delivers finished apparatus built from stocks on hand according to construction data which the Czechs have had since the time of the war. A few Zeiss moving-picture cameras (5-6) have already been delivered.
13. From stocks now on hand, the Czechs are building Kinotheodolite stations, according to Askania plans, and are selling them, mainly in foreign countries. Among the foreign buyers are Yugoslavia, Sweden, and Brazil. After the parts now remaining are used up, further construction of these instruments is not planned, since a special Czech commission determined during inspection of armaments in America that they are no longer a satisfactory sighting mechanism for new weapons. Sufficient amounts of materials and factory installations are said to be present in Czechoslovakia. Nevertheless, designs of precision instruments which can be profitably produced, and can find a market, are lacking.

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